A

VINDICATION

OF THE

R----t H----e and H----e L---DS
and GENTLEMEN, &c.

81/2-2/19

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A

VINDICATION

OF THE

R----t H-----e and H-----e L---ds and Gentlemen, who have been baſely aſperſed, and ſcandalouſly miſ-repreſented, in a late Anonimous work, Intitled,

THE

HISTORY

OF

ROGER.

By a Lover of Truth.

DUBLIN:

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BRITISH MUSEUM

A

VINDICATION

OF THE

R----t H----e and H----e L----ds and Gentlemen, &c.

THERE is no virtue can be free from the envenomed teeth of *malice* and *diſappointment*. The beſt intentions are miſconſtrued, when *envy* has leave to work, and *ſlander* can be ſure of impunity. The leſs merit men have themſelves, the more does it *gaul them* to behold it in others, and without any other provocation to reſentment; to be *eminent* is enough to be *odious*. This maxim has been exemplified in every age: But never more than in a *recent* inſtance of the higheſt impudence and folly in a ridiculous paper, called, *The hiſtory of Roger*, where the *pitiful hiſtorian*, under *feigned names* and *invidious alluſions*, has traduced and vilified men of the higheſt *degree* both in *church* and *ſtate*, and even taken the *licence* (for liberty I can't call it) to play with *names* that ought to be

be held in ſome degree *ſacred*; for the perſons of V--e R--ys are the repreſentative of Kings.

THIS ſcandalous paper is ſaid to have been well receiv'd by the *publick*, and pretended by the bookſellers to have been bought up to the number of ſome thouſands. I ſhall not pretend to diſpute the *publick taſte*. If any one can find in it wit or entertainment, he has my conſent to admire and applaud the performance. I am only concerned to ſet in a *true light*, the characters of ſeveral very worthy perſons, which he has ignorantly and maliciouſly miſrepreſented.

WHEN men have ſerved their country with *faithfulneſs* and *ability*; when they have proved themſelves clear of any *by-ends*, or *lucrative deſigns*; when they have contributed to the publick utility even by impairing their private fortunes; it is a bad return to be *pelted* with *libels* and ſawcy invectives, and expoſed to the publick view in *fools coats*, and diſadvantageous deſcriptions. And if a law could be found out for the puniſhment of the authors, or the readers, (who are equally culpable,) it would be ev'ry good man's deſire to ſee it put in execution; and I can't help declaring my opinion, that if in any caſe it be allowable to *ſtretch the laws*, it never can be done with more *equity* and *juſtice* than in bringing to *light* and condign puniſhment, the authors, who ſkreen themſelves from the *letter of the law* by allegories, fictions, and feigned repreſentations. They are more dangerous

gerous than an open enemy, and under pretence of *liberty of the preſs*, for aught I know, in time, may undermine and ſubvert the conſtitution. Their apology is, who can ſay I mean't ſo, and ſo? Shall that be an excuſe for treaſon and oppoſition to *delegated* power? Is not their meaning plain, though not expreſſed in words? Would not theſe writers, in any other country, ſoon be convinced their *meaning* was underſtood; and muſt an *Engliſh* jury be the only body of men, who muſt never *take upon them to conceive*, or underſtand? ridiculous ſubterfuge! and I will maintain it in point of equity, though *M--l--e*, and the *greateſt lawers* in *Weſtminſter* ſhould contradict me.

In the paper before us, would it be perjury for a jury to *find*, that *Yorkſhire* means *Ireland*, and *Roger* a gentleman I don't think fit to name? That by *quarter ſeſſions* is meant *p----t*; by *juſtices* the *mem--rs*; by *conſtables ſheriffs*, and ſo on; and that the ſeveral gentlemen therein nicknamed are *extremely well* known, though ill deſcribed, and may *have their action* againſt the author for a *libel*? Now, whether any reformation may be expected in this matter, and the people of *England* have *leave to ſee*, as they do in other countries, I ſhall not ſay; but only will recount a late inſtance in *France*, where fifty *Abbe's* were committed to the *Baſtile*, becauſe it was thought probable that one or other of them might have a hand in a ſatire, which ſeemed to reflect on a great lady in *near confidence* and *truſt* with

with the king. And yet that ſatire was by no means ſo plain, or the perſons pointed at ſo well underſtood, as are the moſt *inconſiderable* in this *paltry hiſtory*, which I ſhall throw away an hour to animadvert on.

As there are but two ways of confuting a hiſtory, either by diſproving the facts, or hanging the author; and the laſt of theſe being unhappily out of the Power of the Government; I ſhall neither *diſown the Facts* alluded to, or *arraign* the author, but only *vindicate* the gentlemen aſperſed, and make occaſional reflexions on their *worthy hiſtorian*. Whoever offers to write for the publick ought at leaſt to underſtand the language he writes in, and of the people he writes to; by which rule of judging we may fairly conclude, he intended his work for the *accurate* peruſal of the chairmen *off Hazard* or freſh-men out of commons, in *College-green*, and not improbably for the loitering mechanicks of *Plunket-ſtreet*. *Putt* and *all-fours*, may be underſtood by the *former*, and *ſecond-hand breeches* by the *latter*; but 'tis a down-right affront to addreſs the gentry and nobility in terms and phraſes of ſo *low a rate*, and ſuch a *vulgar ſtamp*; and to convey to their apprehenſion, in *little ideas*, *things* and *perſons* of the *greateſt* conſequence and importance. But this I do not charge as a fault in the writer, but to the *ſcoundrel habits* of a low education, which the *reputed* author can never ſhake off, though long admitted to the company and confidence of the *top nobi-*

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lity and gentry of the kingdom. Nor do I call it his *ignorance*, in this point, but rather his *art*, by this method to lower, in the opinion of the publick, the *pretenſions* and *characters* of men, who have long ſtood foremoſt on the liſts of reputation and honour.

The firſt *character* or deſcription that occurs to us, is the principal figure in the *piece*. If he has drawn it ill or well is no affair of mine, and I ſuppoſe the gentleman intended will be but little obliged by his *clumſy encomiums*. Nor ſhall I ſtop to conſider whether he be maſter of the happy accompliſhments of *ſpelling*, and underſtanding the *meaning of words*, becauſe every *ſchool-boy* can *put together*. A horſe can underſtand words, and I knew a parrot that ſpoke *French*, and probably now, can tranſlate it into *Engliſh*, as he has long been converſant in an *Engliſh* family. But his *panegyricks* are not what I intend to conſider, but his bold *invectives*, and ſawcy familiarity with the greateſt perſonages. Is *Slyboots* a name by which to deſcribe the greateſt wit, and moſt conſummate ſtateſman, that the preſent century has produced? Is a penetrating genius, and a ſagacity to which nothing is impervious, ſufficiently ſet forth by the word *ſmoaky?* Is oratory, ſuperior to *Tully's* himſelf, (if he were to ſpeak in the ſame place) handſomely repreſented, or decently expreſſed, by *out-talking his company*, and *bamboozling Old Nick?* Is a flowing courteſy, and condeſcending carriage, with pleaſantry united

to dignity, either natural, or not to be acquired but by natural and great talents, ſo as to eſcape diſcovery, to be put on the ſame footing with the *joke* and *banter* of a *four-courts* companion, at a *Fiſhamble-ſtreet* ordinary? Theſe are things that call aloud for redreſs, and are manifeſt invaſions on the rights and privileges of the *great* and *noble*. Reſpect to thoſe diſtinguiſhed by their *place*, or more diſtinguiſhed by parts and abilities ſuperior to any place, is a *moral* Duty, I had almoſt ſaid, a religious one, and never can be neglected, but by the *mean* and *flagitious*, by men of obſcure birth and dirty education. To encourage, or not ſuppreſs it, is fatal to the commonwealth, and, I fear, will ſoon prove ſo to the conſtitution of *this city* in particular. And if ſome wholeſome remedy be not timely applied to reſtrain the violences of the *mob*, and the licence of converſation at *Drums*; we ſhall ſoon ſee an end of all government and order, the ſcum will be uppermoſt. The *Kevin Rail* will chuſe one *Lord-Mayor*, and the *Liberty-Boys* another; and the ſame *anarchy* will prevail in the *capital*, that has ruined *Waterford*, and laid waſte *Kilkenny*. The characters of the nobility will be at the mercy of lady ——, and become ſport to the motly mixture of the ſenſeleſs crew, who form her *polite* meeting, and ſupport her envied reputation of having all the w——s, ſh——rs, and fools, of this great city for her friends.

But I return from my digreſſion, which I have made the longer, in order to *ſtigmatize* once for all the pernicious liberty this hiſtorian has allowed himſelf, in *degrading of characters*; and his bold though ſucceſsleſs attempt to *ſtamp ridicule* on *gentlemen*, who are the fartheſt in the world from being ridiculous; and, I hope, will not be thought ſo when I have *reaſoned* my reader out of his diſpoſition to laugh. What idea he would give us by the word *Suck-fiſt* is to me incomprehenſible, though I meet with a *judge* of that name in *Rabelais*. But it's obvious he intended it for Sir *R. W——e*, who was the idol of his own times, and will be the wonder of poſterity; who contrived to ſubdue the *bullies of the world*, without returning their blows; and baffled the politicks of the ableſt ſtateſmen, by letting them do what they pleaſed with him and his country. But theſe remarks I have done with, and proceed to juſtify the character of a worthy prelate and a ſolid Ld C——r, who long preſided in this kingdom, to the great improvement of learning in the church, and ſupport of property in the ſtate. He has repreſented them as undertakers for *Slyboots*, in ſome *myſterious* buſineſs, enjoined him by *Suck-fiſt*, on his departure to his government. Now, not to mention that the *firſt* was the moſt improper of his *whole claſs* to be employed about *myſteries*, it is highly improbable he would ſuffer himſelf to be made a *tool* of, to work the detriment of a country, which he, as well as his ſucceſſors, *profeſſed* an inclination to ſerve.

And though ſome *memorandums* of his were diſcovered at an auction of books, after his deceaſe, laying down *plans* for diſtreſſing this country, I can ſuppoſe them *no other* than *ſolitary amuſements*, as often as he was tired with ſeverer ſtudies, and that he choſe to unbend his mind with *unpolitick* ſpeculations, but without any deſign of putting them in practice. If we may judge of the *other*, from his proceedings in the *court*, he could hardly apprehend, or get *impreſſed* on his mind, during a whole ſeſſion, what *Slyboots* would expect to be the *execution of a day*. And though he ſays *ironically*, that *Slyboots* choſe them on account of theſe *negative* qualifications, the whole is no better than an invention of his own, and may go along with the ſtory of *his rope-dancer*.

THE next thing material that claims our notice is, an invidious inſinuation, that a *ſcheme was laid*, to give the uſual *taxes* for a long term of years; which in itſelf was a uſeful propoſal for the weal publick, and the only ill conſequence to be apprehended from it was laying aſide parliaments till the expiration of *that term*. I own, we have had very tragical outcries on this ſubject, and been made to believe, by the artifice of popular and deſigning men, that evils muſt enſue from a ſuſpenſion of legiſlative power, to which only an effectual appeal can be made, from the *abuſes of power* in the hands of a few, and for redreſs of grievances impoſed by thoſe, who will find *impunity*, if not

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encouragement, from *ſuperiors*, who may be too much intereſted themſelves, to open a ſcene where they have *borne a part*, or enquire too narrowly into petty miſdemeanors, which muſt bring to light their own more important tranſactions. *This*, I will only obſerve, has ever been the cry, when *wanton diſcontent* makes men troubleſome and uneaſy; when *encreaſing wealth* makes them proud and luxurious; 'tis then they *kick* againſt their rulers, and would ſhake off the burden of legal power; 'tis then they *want*, they know not *what*, and *fear*, they know not whom. They ſtart at *ſhadows*, like a pampered horſe; and my countrymen, I hope, will forgive me, if I compare them to *Fingallian garrons*, which the owners will tell you, oftentimes *are too ſtrong to work*, and when long left at *eaſe* and *fodder*, will bite, and bounce, and kick, *before*, as well as *behind*.

THAT our kingdom of *I—d* is in theſe circumſtances no one will adviſedly deny. Our *publick ſtock* has well nigh *doubled* in eighteen years paſt. From a poor, we are become a rich nation. And though all this has happened during the time this hiſtorian's *hero*, as he would inſinuate, has ſkreened the kingdom from the ill judged deſigns of men in power, it is obviouſly owing to the encouragements given by every Lord L—t to the linen manufacture, and the ſuppreſſing of illicite commerce both *out* and *in*; though in his next paragraph, he attempts to be merry on a

ſcheme

ſcheme was thought neceſſary for the good of the kingdom, and would to a demonſtration have had one good effect, *viz.* that the *ragged appearance* ſo general in our ſtreets, and ſo diſagreeable to ſtrangers, would ſoon be removed; for where there is no *cloath* there can be no *ragged cloaths*; and I think to be naked (if it came to that) is more *uniform* than to be *ragged*, and would not ſo much expoſe *men* to the *contempt* of the *Engliſh*, eſpecially the *Engliſh ladies*, as the *half covering* they ſee at preſent before every window they look out at, and the *unskirted* coats and diſcontinuous *breeches* of *chair* and hackney *coach-men*.

But to have done arguing on things ſo plain, let me in the next, vindicate a noble P—r from the imputations our hiſtorian has laid thick upon him. This gentleman it is known went early into an honourable command in the army, and did not, as gentlemen do now, from the *caprice of the times*, begin at the loweſt *rank*, and proceed by *ſteps* as time and merit may open the way, but quickly arrived at a command, which few now in early life can expect. If he amuſed himſelf with *gaming*, it was becauſe the *army* had little elſe to do. If he won Money, it was becauſe fortune favoured him. If he kept it when he got it, was only in compliance with the *ſordid* way of thinking ſo univerſally prevailing in the preſent age, and when every man and every woman, is eſteemed a fool, who do not get money

money by *ev'ry way* they can. I remember in the time of K. *Charles*, when a nobleman was little reſpected on account of a *large* eſtate if not accompanied with a ſuitable *largeneſs* of mind, and if *ſuperior* breeding did not come in aid, to ſuperior rank and wealth. A diſtinguiſhed honeſty was then ſuperior to *titles*, as is very well obſerved by *Dr. Loyd*, in his life of Mr. *Peto*; and after him by Ld. *O---y*, that to be a *right honeſt* is more deſirable than to be a *right honourable man*. But now notions are reverſed, and the gentry and nobility *muſt ſtoop to things their great ſouls abhor*, in order to get money, or elſe paſs for fools. If this be the taſte of the times, I ſuppoſe our *hiſtorian* would not have the *corporal* be out of faſhion, and paſs for a fool, which no man ever thought him. I purpoſely paſs by the pertneſs of the *nick-name*, having remarked on that before, tho' one would think the Author muſt know his *rank*, and when he *got* it, ſo that ignorance cannot paſs for an excuſe, or exempt him from the epithets of *impudent* and *ill-mannered*. As he has paſſed a ſlight compliment on his ſon and Heir, I paſs over to *Hopeful*, under which appellative he deſcribes a young Gentleman of *great hopes*, and *very early* diſtinguiſhed in *very eminent ſtations*; and, 'tis to be *hoped*, may in time arrive at *greater*. His objections are ſo trifling and *puerile*, it is beneath a grave writer to ſet about refuting them. It ſeems he was *briſk* and *lively* at ſchool, played *football* and *priſon bars*, (a game I never heard of;) look'd *arch* and heedleſs in Church,

Church, and did not mind the ſermon. Pray let me aſk him, don't all lads of a generous conſtitution play *cricket*, (that I ſuppoſe he means) or on a froſty day join in any football match they happen to meet? Would he have a boy at ſermon look as grave as my Ld. *C*---- *B*---- when he gathers up his face, and *folds* up his eyes, to have his ears entertained with *St*---*d*'s tenth argument for defering the *decree*. Muſt he at all times look, as important as was *Betſ*----*h* when in *act to ſpeak*, or majeſtick as *S*---*n* when he charges the jury? Is it any crime that he took advantage of holydays, which are now only underſtood, (*by all*, but the *reader* and dean of chriſt church,) as an exemption from buſineſs of *our own*, or a pretence for keeping other people's money? If a reformation be wanted in that point, and that people may be at liberty to obſerve the commandment, let the *church* look to it, and the ſtate, *which is always infallible*, begin the *reformation*. Muſt the gentlemen of barrack and revenue boards ſet up for *reformers*, who are but lately reformed themſelves, and will have enough to do if they *keep* rules enjoined them, inſtead of making them for others.

But to anſwer ſuch cavils, is as idle as to make them: Nor will I waſte my reader's time and patience in confuting his ungrounded inſinuation that *Hopeful* ever entertained an expectation of being made a *chairman*. The ſilly author contradicts himſelf; for a *chair* muſt be of little uſe to one, who can never

never *ſit ſtill*. Nor is it well to be believed, from the character he has given him, he ſhould know how to ſit in an *armed chair*, or what part of it to occupy. When *harlequin prince*, in the *Paris* comedy, received *embaſſadors*, he ſat *ſideways*, and dangled his legs over one of the arms, ſitting his *bonnet* and flouriſhing his *lath*, whilſt the unheeded *orators* made their ſpeech from behind him. We have *maſters* to teach us how to dance and walk, and I would here recommend it as a thing *needful* to the next generation to give proper encouragement to *ſitting maſters*, as the compoſing of the body and limbs with due decorum in that ſtate, is not to be neglected; becauſe our *attitude* is eaſier obſerved, and *remark'd* on, than when *walking* or *running*.

His next *character* of a perſon in high ſtation under the name of *the Perſon*, is the only one, in which there is neither *flattery* or *ſatire*; the firſt part of it is no more than his due, and the ſecond he could not help, if it be a *real* and not an *apochryphal* account of him. But in the appellative of *Piſtol* he has taken *unbounded freedom*, and related facts without aſſigning the cauſes of them, and actions without telling us the motives. He was fond, it is true, of *pitch'd battles*; but it was becauſe *William the hardy* was fond of them too. It was no want of ſpirit, or conduct, that rendered *Piſtol* unfortunate. He was overpowered by numbers, both in *Flan-*

ders and *college green*, and came off (whatever this *Hiſtorian* may ſuggeſt) conſiderably better *at home*, than he did in the Campaign *abroad*. *There* he was wounded, but *here* he eſcaped *ſhot free* from the battle; and if you ſet *any other general* againſt him, he ſhall fight it o'er again, although his *allies* were not to be *depended on* at *home* or *abroad*. They were both conſulting for their *private* intereſt and trade; and quite regardleſs of the *common cauſe*.

THERE are ſundry Characters of an inferior claſs, who doubtleſs will properly reſent the unworthy treatment he has given them; and if they wait an opportunity of *kicking* or *ſweating* the author, they may find him ev'ry evening on his ſolitary walk *north-ſide* of *Stephen's-green* at five o' clock, or in the entry of the *roſe* in *caſtle-ſtreet*, from whence he returns ev'ry night at *eleven*. And whatever correction they will be pleaſed to give him, will be *connived* at, or made up on giving ſatisfaction to the *plaintiff*, or *another beating*, as *they* ſhall chuſe; or their friends, who have intereſt with men in power, ſhall adviſe.

BUT before I cloſe I muſt in honeſty do juſtice *to one*, who is not only ſlandered by the *pert* inſinuations of this ſcandalous writer; but, in the opinion of the world, was hardly dealt by, and unreaſonably *mobbed* (I can call it no better) by two hundred perſons, whoſe names I deſire to be excuſed *inſerting*.

ferting. And the writer, who perhaps is one of that very *Mob*, has, in the character of *Gimcrack*, thrown a vile imputation on a Gentleman every way equal to his employment, and who before, had made ſufficient proof of his *taſte*, as well as *knowledge*, in architecture, both *military* and *civil*. I omit the repairing of barracks *hinted at*, as a *fitter* work for an ordinary mechanick, than a Gentleman, who had travelled to *take plans* of fortifications, and ſtudy the true principles of ancient and modern architecture, and doubtleſs made his obſervations on the defects of *Vauban* and *Coborn*.

The wretched condition is well known of the *forts* and garriſons of this kingdom when Mr. *S——es* became engineer-general, in ſo much that I have heard it affirmed, by perſons thought to underſtand that ſervice, that if *marſhal Saxe* had taken an opportunity to land at *Kinſale* with twenty thouſand men, and a few of the heavy cannon he ſent afterwards to *Bergen-op-zoom*, it was morally impoſſible the *fort* could, in its then defenceleſs ſtate, ſuſtain a ſiege of more than 17 days; eſpecially as it might have happened at a time when the moſt *experienced gunners* and *matroſſes* of the *fort* were drained away to ſerve under Gen—l S——n on the *L'orient* expedition. That the *French* had ſuch a deſign is, I think, paſt doubt, and it had *tranſpired* ſo far as to be communicated to the publick in Mr. *F—l—r*'s Journal, beſide the private intelli-

gence my Ld. *W——a*, then *firſt* of the admiralty, received from his *ſpies*. And that the ſaid *marſhal*, ſaid *men*, and ſaid *artillery*, were ſeen *off the Cape* for three days together, with a well appointed fleet of *tall ſhips* and *tenders*, was ſufficiently atteſted to, by *three* juſtices of the peace in thoſe parts, and *ſeven* coaſt officers. Now, can any human reaſon be aſſigned, why a fleet ſo well *found* with military Stores, equipped at ſuch expence of treaſure, and ſo near the place of its deſtination, ſhould ſuddenly diſappear, and never be heard of more; ſave this one and only anſwer to be given (*viz.*) that the ſaid *marſhal*'s retreat was owing to *diſtruſt of ſucceſs*, on hearing from his *popiſh* correſpondents on ſhore, that Mr. *J——s* was made *engineer* general, and had fitted up the *fort* to give him a warm reception? I do not mention this (tho' a known fact) in order to prop the *engineer*'s reputation for military knowledge, which he abundantly ſhewed in the diſpoſitions he made in the moſt conſiderable of our *forts* and in removing *bombs*, and *mortars*, and all the *lumber* that might be uſeleſs in a *garriſon*, and only ſerve to terrify the unexperienced ſoldiers with their terrible mouths and hideous roar, as often as the governor threw *ſhells* for his diverſion. But I muſt think it ungrateful, after his military ſervices, to call him to account for paltry ſums, which every ordinary overſeer at St. *Patrick*'s ſteeple in all probability *purloined*; and more, all trades in a *free*

country

country have their allowed *perquisites*. And I see no use in multiplying *inspectors*, *check* and *cash-officers*, *muster-masters* and *examinators*, and the numerous tribes of this kind, so expensive to the state, since in the *last resort* this question may be ask'd,—— quis custodiet ipsos custodes? in *English*, *Who does the money belong to?* Till that point is settled, I hold it folly to be exact, *sue securities*, and stop mens hands in their honest industry, only to amass wealth to lye in *idle heaps*, and *without currency*, till the question be resolved; which, for aught appears, will not be speedily, or at least till people are more disposed to come to an *agreement* on the subject.

HAVING now pretty well gone through with, and clearly confuted the misrepresentations, scandalous suggestions, and vile insinuations, of the author of this boasted piece, I shall neither delay myself or reader to consider him farther in his historical capacity. Nor can I believe what is confidently asserted, that he intends a continuation of his history. At least, he must wait for matter till *next quarter session*; for he has spun the thread of his ridiculous narrative quite out already. Though it is possible, some hireling scribler may be encouraged by the uncommon sale it met with, to put a second on the town, in which history, if he presume to bring in and handle the author of *this Vindication*, he may chance to repent it. And I here give notice, that, if any *College Wit*, or

Custom-

Cuſtom-houſe Joaker; any *pert player*, or conceited *Manager*; any *flattering Chaplain*, or above all any *Prig* of a *Templar*, ſhall ſhew his *fire*, *new parts*, and *genius*, by making remarks on this paper of mine; ſhould he exhauſt his common place book, or the records of his memory, for the wit he treaſured up at *Ivy-Lane*, heard at the Bull's-Head from *R——r B——n*, or collected by ſcraps at the *Grecian* coffee-houſe; I ſhall, I repeat it, take the liberty not to mind him. I ſhall *nonſuit*, whenever I am called on by him. But if a ſober writer, who will uſe ſound ſenſe and grave argument, and with all be polite in his manners, and gentle in his words, ſhall think fit to criticize me, I will, in imitation of the learned author of *The Eſſay on Spirit*, *if God grant me life and health*, recant my miſtakes, or make a very *ſenſible reply*. I know how to treat gentlemen and ſcholars, and how to be treated by them. But to people of *coarſe manners* and *indecent language*, (which of all things is my averſion) I declare my intentions of not being at leiſure to regard them, or take the leaſt notice of ſuch *paultry ſcabs*, porter-like puppies, newgate ſcrubs, pimps and ſollicitors, who have neither the breeding or language of gentlemen.

FINIS.